

Welcome to your Energy-Smart Pricing PlanSM

Summer Readiness Kit

Dear Participant,

We are entering summer, the season when electricity prices typically fluctuate most. **Being smart about your electricity use – especially your air conditioning use – will help you save money with the Energy-Smart Pricing PlanSM (ESPP).**

The graph to the lower right shows how prices typically change during cool, warm, and hot summer days. Normally, the highest prices will be in the late afternoon and early evening. Depending on weather and other conditions, some days will have higher overall prices than others.

You can save the most money with ESPP by reducing your electricity use during high-priced hours. You can take advantage of low prices by running appliances during less expensive, off-peak hours.

You can check daily electricity prices online at **www.energycooperative.org** or by phone at **(877) 655-6028**. If electricity prices will rise above 13 cents per kilowatt-hour for one or more hours on any day, the Cooperative will send you a high price notification by e-mail or an automated telephone system on the evening prior to that high price day.

The high price period tips in this kit will help you to take special actions when you receive these high price notifications. In addition, you can use the everyday summer energy saving tips to save energy and money throughout the season.

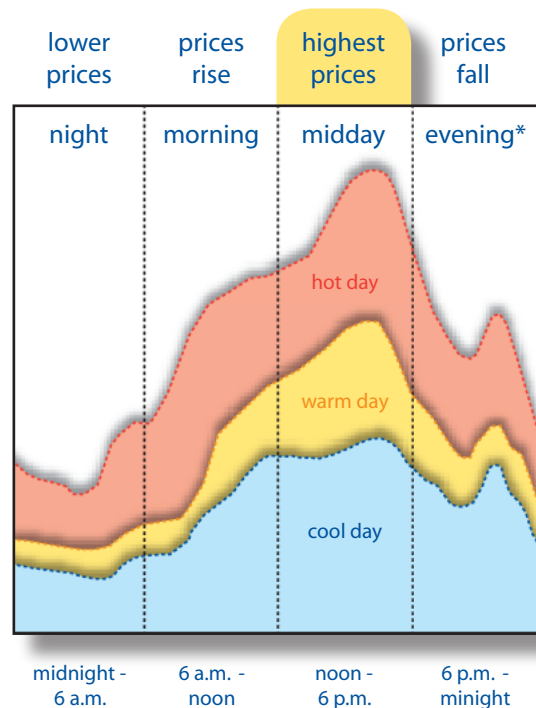
To make sure you receive your high price notifications this summer, please let us know if your contact information has changed. And of course, don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

As an ESPP participant, your energy-saving efforts are helping to make the electricity system work better for everyone by reducing peak demand. Thank you for your contribution to a better energy future for our region.

Sincerely,
The ESPP Team
Reach us at (877) 655-6028 or info@energycooperative.org



Typical Price Changes on Summer Days

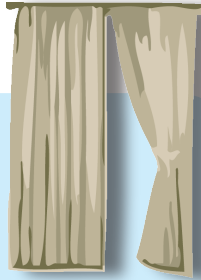


* Note: Prices are slightly higher 8 p.m - 9 p.m.

Air Conditioning



Everyday Tips



Cut the Air Costs

Being smart with your air conditioner use will help you save the most on your energy costs this summer. Set your air conditioner to the warmest temperature that feels comfortable. Save energy by turning off your air conditioner or adjusting the thermostat during cooler weather and during hours when no one is home.

- **Window Air Conditioners:** Turn the air conditioner off when you are not home.
- **Central Air Conditioners:** Raise the temperature setting on the thermostat when you go out.

Save Automatically

If you have a programmable thermostat, use it to automatically adjust the temperature and save energy when you're not home.

Change the Filter

Replace or clean your window or central air conditioning filters once a month or as directed by the manufacturer. Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase energy use.

Circulate Cool Air

Use fans along with your air conditioner to make your home feel cooler. Fans use far less electricity than air conditioners. A ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4° F with no reduction in comfort! Just remember to turn the fan off when you leave the room.

Beware of the Sunny Side

Keep shades and curtains closed on the sunny side of the house to reduce heat caused by sunlight.

Keep Your Cool

Make sure that windows and doors are closed tightly while your air conditioner is running.

High Price Period Tips

Central Air Conditioners

Temporarily change your thermostat to a warmer temperature setting during high price periods.

Window Air Conditioners

Limit the use of your window air conditioners during high price periods. Use a warmer temperature setting or turn the air conditioner off.



In the Kitchen



Everyday Tips



Don't Create Heat

To keep the house cooler, try using a crock pot, toaster oven, or small microwave instead of the stove or oven.

Clean Up Efficiently

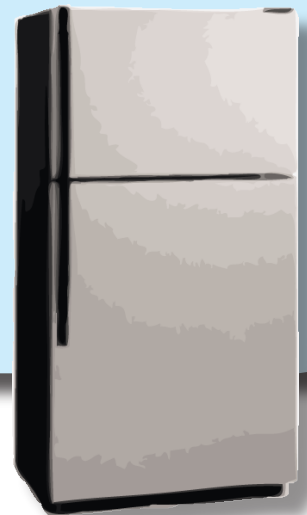
Dishwashers both use electricity and produce heat. Only wash full loads so you won't have to run the dishwasher as often. Wait until the hottest time of day has passed before running your dishwasher, and use the more efficient "energy-saving" or "no heat dry" option.

Enjoy a Cool Drink

Heat-related health problems are common for older people and young children. To stay healthy, make sure that get enough to drink.

Clean the Coils

Vacuum your refrigerator's coils and, of course, don't leave the fridge door open longer than necessary.



High Price Period Tips

Avoid Using Major Appliances

Avoid using appliances such as dishwashers and electric ovens and stoves during high price periods. Instead, enjoy cool meals or use the microwave.

A microwave will heat small portions more efficiently than an electric oven or stove.



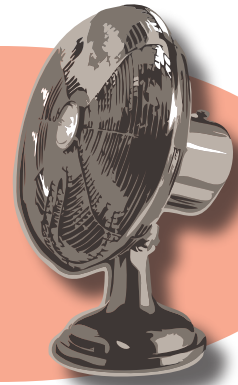
Feast on Cold Foods

On hot days when electricity prices are high, enjoy meals that don't require cooking. Sandwiches, salads and no-cook meals won't heat up the house, and they taste great on hot days.

Fire Up the Grill

Grilling can be one of the great joys of summer, and when you cook outside you won't heat up the kitchen.

Around the House



Everyday Tips

Save on Lighting

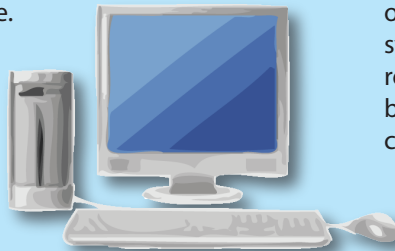
Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) instead of incandescent bulbs. They use less electricity, and they produce less heat. Turn off lights when you don't need them.

Use Fans

Fans use far less electricity than air conditioning. Use fans alone or along with your air conditioner to stay cool for less money.

Cut Computing Costs

Computers use energy even when they are in sleep mode. Set up your computer's energy saving options for maximum efficiency. And turn off the computer when it's not in use.



Save on Laundry

Always wash full loads of laundry and use cold water whenever possible. Make sure the dryer doesn't keep running after your clothes are dry, or use a clothesline to save even more energy.

Adjust the Water Heater

Set your water heater temperature to 120°F. If the tank feels warm to the touch, add an insulating water heater "blanket," available at hardware stores.

Check for Energy Leaks

Many electronics use energy even when they are turned off. Common culprits include home entertainment systems, office electronics, and appliances that include rechargeable batteries. Look for leaky appliances that can be unplugged or connected to a surge protector, which can be switched off when the appliances are not needed.

High Price Period Tips

Wait to Wash

When possible, avoid running the washer and dryer during high price periods.

Use Common Sense

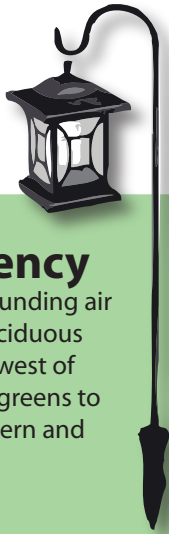
Continue to use your other everyday energy-saving strategies during high priced hours.



Out and About



In the Yard



Landscape for Efficiency

Properly placed trees can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 9°F. Plant deciduous (leaf shedding) trees to the south and west of your home to provide shade. Use evergreens to create winter windbreaks on the northern and northwestern sides of your home.

Use Smart Lighting

Use photo sensors, motion detectors or timers to control your outdoor lighting and ensure that it is not left on when it is not needed.

Go Solar

Where possible, use solar powered outdoor lighting.

Shopping

Shop for Savings

Keep energy efficiency in mind when shopping for light bulbs, appliances, and electronics. Look for products that have earned the ENERGY STAR® label. They meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy.

Get the Right Air Conditioner

If you are shopping for a new air conditioner, look for energy efficient models that have earned the ENERGY STAR® label, and make sure you buy the proper size. One that is too large will start up and turn off more frequently, and will not do as good a job dehumidifying the air.

Around Town

Get Out and Stay Cool

Plan fun summer activities that will let reduce your home air conditioning use while you stay cool and have fun. Here are a few ideas.

Dive In

Go swimming. You'll stay cool while you have fun and get in shape!

Head to the Movies

Enjoy a movie in an air conditioned theater.

Get Cultured

Plan your outings for hot days and get cool, and cultural, inside one of the Chicago area's many (air conditioned) museums.

Hit the Books

Head to your local air conditioned library to catch up on your summer reading.

Go Window Shopping

Get out of the house and take a stroll in an air conditioned mall.

